

TOWN of WESTON, CONNECTICUT



Incorporated 1787

Town Engineer's Office

February 26, 2018

Weston Planning & Zoning Commission
Weston Town Hall
56 Norfield Road
Weston, CT

Attention: Ken Edgar, Chairman

Re: Weston Dog Park

Dear Mr. Edgar:

In response to the Commission's CGS 8-24 Report of the proposed dog park to be located on the Moore Property, dated 5/1/17, I have listed below responses to such report in the same numerical order as stated under section titled, "Issues to be Addressed Regarding the Moore Proposal and any Future Proposed Dog Park."

Item 1) Liability

1a. The Weston Dog Park, Inc. is not responsible for grading, paving or fencing. A private contractor will be hired to complete the site work. A cost estimate has been provided to the Commission, indicating the cost breakdown of the Town's participation and the Weston Dog Park Inc.'s participation. That breakdown is listed in Appendix D of the report, dated February 5, 2018, from this office. Security cameras are not proposed for the park. The Weston Police Dept. has stated it will patrol the park if constructed. Waste disposal will be the responsibility of the Weston Parks & Recreation Dept. Insurance will be provided by the Town. If the dog park is to be dismantled, it will be done by a private contractor.

RECEIVED

FEB 26 2018

TOWN OF WESTON
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

- 1b. The MOU is provided in the report submitted to the Commission in Appendix G.
- 1c. Residual liability for any problems at the dog park are addressed in the MOU.
- 1d. The budget for maintenance is provided in the report in Appendix D, Cost Estimates.
- 1e. The Weston Dog Park, Inc. monetary participation is listed in the report's Appendix D, Cost Estimates, and in the MOU.

Item 2) Effect on the Neighborhood

- 2a. Concerning dog barking, enclosed with this letter, is a dog barking analysis in decibels.
- 2b. The Weston Police Dept. will be patrolling the dog park after hours. The Animal Control Officer will patrol the park during hours of operation.
- 2c. A formal traffic study has been completed and provided in the report in Appendix F.

Item 3) Design of the Moore Proposal Dog Park

- 3a. A 3.5 acre section of the property was selected because it is located in the center of the Moore Property with a stonewall barrier to hide the proposed park from surrounding neighbors and to prevent noise levels reaching the property boundaries.
- 3b. Twenty-two parking spaces have been provided with an additional twenty-two spaces, if needed.
- 3c. An 80-foot cul-de-sac has been provided for vehicles to turn around and head back out to Lords Highway East.
- 3d. Hours of operation are from dawn to dusk.
- 3e. The proposed dog park rules have been agreed to by Weston Dog Park, Inc.
- 3f. They are realistic.
- 3g. The Animal Control Officer will enforce them.
- 3h. There will be a double-gated entry.
- 3i. There will be a separate section for small dogs.
- 3j. Signage and location of signage are shown on the fencing plan.

3k. Enclosed are the recommendations from the American Kennel Club of an ideal dog park. All recommendations have been included with the Weston dog park except for the provision of water. Dog owners are to provide water for their dogs.

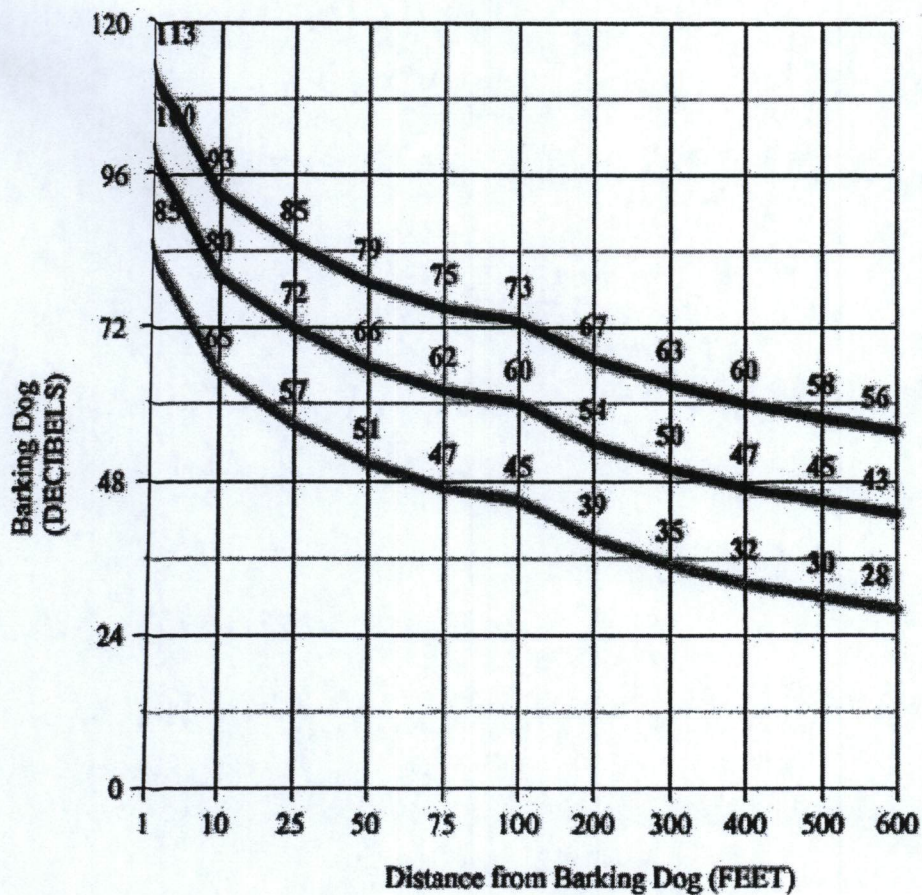
- a. There will be cleaning supplies and a covered garbage can. See Appendix C of the report.
- b. There will be shade for dogs and humans. The proposed park will remain in its natural state.
- c. The proposed park will not be mowed. The park will remain in its natural state – forest.
- d. The proposed park will retain all of the native trees. Only dead trees will be removed.
- e. Cost estimates are provided in Appendix D of the report.
- f. Parking is provided adjacent to the park to allow easy access for people with disabilities.

The Town has completed reviews of other possible areas for a dog park and has found the Moore Property lends itself the best location for the park. A summary sheet of other areas reviewed is posted on the Town's website for everyone to read.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Conte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Conte" clearly distinguishable.

John Conte, P.E.
Town Engineer

HOW LOUD IS A DOG PARK?



UNDERSTANDING DECIBELS

Decibels are a tricky unit. They are on a logarithmic scale instead of linear, which means each mark on the scale is the previous mark multiplied by a value. For decibels (dec meaning ten) each 10 decibels means the sound intensity has increased ten times, or roughly doubled in loudness. Therefore, the 120 decibel sound of a chainsaw is 10 times more intense than the 110 decibel sound of a jackhammer, or twice as loud; and it's 100 times more intense than the 100 decibel sound of motorcycle or a very loud dog, or four times as loud.

So what about two chainsaws? Well, in an open space, doubling the noise does not mean doubling sound level. Expressed in decibels, doubling noise is represented by an increase of 3dB. If one chainsaw creates a sound level of 120 decibels, then two chainsaws will create 123 decibels, while 10 chainsaws near 130. Same would be true for barking dogs, multiplying their numbers wouldn't cause a dramatic increase in sound levels.

- Loudest Dog Ever**
(Guinness Book of World Records)
- Load Dog**
- Average Dog**

REFERENCE at zero distance
 Chainsaw 120 dB
 Jackhammer 110 dB
 Motorcycle 100 dB
 Squeeze Toy/Lawnmower 90 dB
 Alarm Clock 80 dB
 Shower/Dishwasher 70 dB
 Conversational Speech 60 dB
 Refrigerator 50 dB
 Computer 40 dB
 Whisper 30 dB
 Rustling Leaves 20 dB
 Pin Drop 10 dB

UNDERSTANDING THE GRAPH

Distance from the source of sound dampens it. The chart here shows the intensity of the sound of dog bark at distances ranging from 1 foot to 600 feet. It does not take into account any outside conditions, or other sounds interfering with the sound of a dog bark.

(Data was derived using numeralexample.com online calculator.)



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

AKC® Web Site: www.akc.org

For more information, contact
the Government Relations Department

Phone: 919-816-3720

Fax: 919-816-4275

E-Mail: doglaw@akc.org

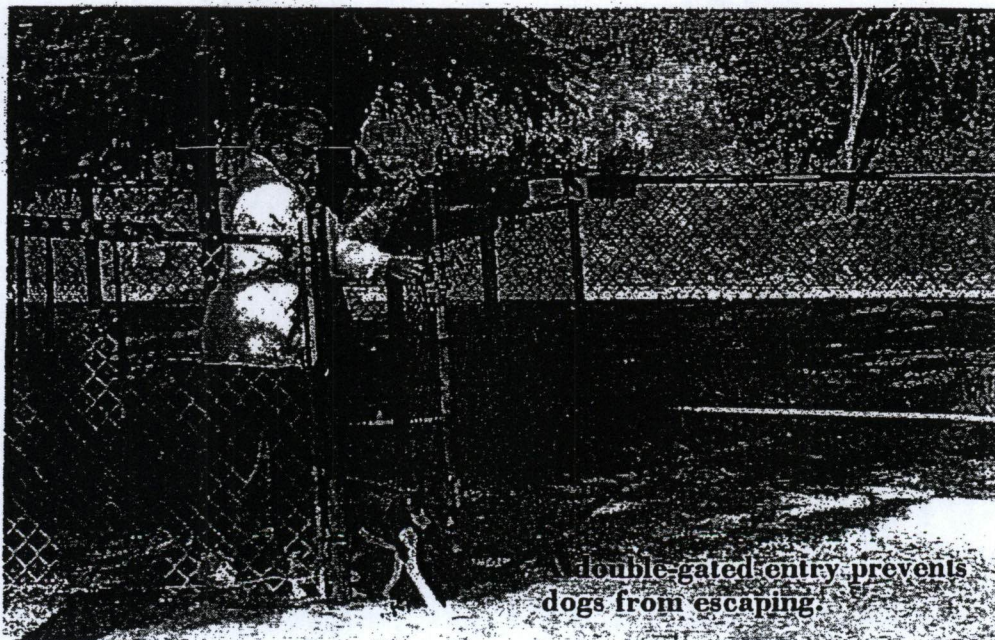
Photos of Remington Dog Park, Sausalito, CA, by Vicky Gook

GLEG01 (10/08)

Dog Park Design:

The Ideal Dog Park Should Include . . .

- One acre or more of land surrounded by a four- to six-foot high chain-link fence. Preferably, the fence should be equipped with a double-gated entry to keep dogs from escaping and to facilitate wheelchair access.
- Cleaning supplies, including covered garbage cans, waste bags, and pooper-scooper stations.
- Shade and water for both dogs and owners, along with benches and tables.
- A safe, accessible location with adequate drainage and a grassy area that is mowed routinely.
- If space allows, it is preferable to provide separate areas for small and large dogs. This will enable large dog owners to allow their pets to run more freely, while protecting smaller dogs who may not be suited to the enthusiastic play of larger breeds.
- Signs that specify park hours and rules.
- Parking close to the site.



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®